

Message Text

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73

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SR-02 ORM-01 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 /080 W

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R 061603Z DEC 74

FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 219

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN 4489

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN

USMISSION NATO

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGARDT

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, WB, UR, IS

SUBJECT: SOVIET JEWS IN BERLIN

REF: USBERLIN 2200

1. SENAT DECIDED NOT TO WAIT FOR FOMAL PRESENTA-
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TION OF FINAL ISRAELI POSITION (PARA 5 REFTTEL) AND

ACCORDINGLY ANNOUNCED ON DECEMBER 3 NEW POSITION ON SOVIET JEWS. AS OF THAT DATE, ALL JEWISH REFUGESS FROM EASTERN EUROPE WHO ARRIVE IN BERLIN WITH VISITOR STATUS WILL BE PERMITTED TO REMAIN FOR UP TO SIX MONTHS, AFTER WHICH THEY WILL BE COMPELLED TO LEAVE CITY. HOWEVER, SOVIET AND OTHER EAST EUROPEAN JEWS WITH CLAIM TO GERMAN ETHICITY ARE EXEMPTED FROM THIS POLICY. SENAT CHANCELLERY CHIEF HERZ INFORMED MISOFF THAT IN FUTURE, ONLY THOSE JEWISH REFUGEES WHO HAVE APPLIED FOR ACCEPTANCE AS ETHNIC GERMANS WILL BE PERMITTED TO STAY AT MARIENFELDE REFUGEE CAMP. ALL OTHERS WILL HAVE TO PROVIDE FOR THEMSELVES DURING THEIR SOJOURN IN BERLIN.

2. HERZ SAID THAT THE INFLUX OF 546 EAST EUROPEAN JEWS DURING PAST FIFTEEN MONTHS HAS CAUSED SIGNIFICANT INTEGRATION PROBLEM. OF 529 WHO STILL REMAIN (17 DEPARTED VOLUNTARILY IN INTERIM), 140 HAVE ALREADY BEEN GRANTED GERMAN ETHNIC STATUS. HERZ NOTED THAT SMALL JEWISH COMMUNITY IN BERLIN OF APPROXIMATELY 5,000 PERSONS HAD FELT THE STRAIN OF TRYING TO COPE WITH A SUDDEN 10 PERCENT GROWTH OF COMMUNITY. HERZ DISCOUNTED PRESS REPORTS THAT RECENT INFLUX OF SOVIET JEWS WOULD CAUSE PROBLEMS WITH ARABS OR RUSSIANS. HE SAID ARABS WERE PLEASED TO SEE EXODUS FROM ISRAEL AND RUSSIANS HAD EXPRESSED NO CONCERN WHATEVER ABOUT PRESENCE OF FORMER SOVIET JEWS IN WEST BERLIN. HERZ ADDED THAT ONLY 15 OF RECENT JEWISH IMMIGRANTS TO BERLIN CAME DIRECTLY FROM RUSSIA (VIA VIENNA); ALL OTHERS ARRIVED FROM ISRAEL. HE EMPHASIZED THAT SENAT'S NEW POLICY WAS DEVELOPED IN CONSULTATION WITH AND FULL AGREEMENT OF BERLIN JEWISH COMMUNITY. LEADER OF BERLIN JEWISH COMMUNITY, GALINSKI, HAS PUBLICLY APPROVED THE NEW POLICY.

3. SOVIET JEWS NOW IN BERLIN WHO HAVE NOT BEEN GRANTED STATUS OF ETHNIC GERMANS AND WHO HAVE NO CLAIM TO SUCH STATUS WILL NEVERTHELESS RECEIVE SO-CALLED "FREMDENPASS" (ALIEN IDENTITY CARD) WHICH WILL ENABLE THEM TO TRAVEL ABROAD AND RETURN TO BERLIN. HERZ SAID THAT IN FUTURE, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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A SOVIET JEW WHO ARRIVES IN BERLIN FROM ISRAEL AS A VISITOR AND THEN ATTEMPTS TO HAVE STATUS ADJUSTED TO PERMANENT RESIDENT WILL BE SENT BACK TO ISRAEL. WE UNDERSTAND, HOWEVER, THAT VISITORS WHO CAN PROVE THEY HAVE CLAIM TO ETHNIC GERMAN STATUS WILL BE PERMITTED REMAIN PENDING ADJUDICATION SUCH CLAIM. MOST SUCH PERSONS WILL PRESUMABLE HAVE PROVEN THEIR CLAIM TO GERMAN ETHNICITY PRIOR TO ARRIVING IN BERLIN.

4. TO CORRECT RECORD, UPI STORY DATED BERLIN
DECEMBER 4 CONTAINS TOTALLY INCORRECT ASSERTION
THAT 300 SOVIET JEWS IN WEST BERLIN ARE TO BE RETURNED
TO ISRAEL. AS NOTED ABOVE, NO SOVIET JEWS WHO ARRIVED
IN BERLIN PRIOR TO DECEMBER 3, 1974 WILL BE RETURNED
TO ISRAEL.

5. BERLIN HAVING NOW ACCEPTED OVER TWICE AS
MANY SOVIET JEWS AS ENTIRE FRG HAS TAKEN, GALINSKI
SUGGESTED IN PRESS THAT FRG MIGHT ADOPT
SOMEWHAT MORE LIBERAL STANCE ON QUESTION. SELIGMANN

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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